

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of executive Calendar No. 847, Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 687.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

SENATOR. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of executive Calendar No. 687, Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, John W. Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 16, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on one more matter that I would like to address briefly—and I appreciate the indulgence of my friend, the Senator from Illinois, who has waited.

On one other subject, I want to begin this week by wishing our colleague and dear friend Senator VAN HOLLEN a smooth and speedy recovery after his announcement yesterday that he suffered a mild stroke. Every single one of us is relieved—relieved—to hear he is doing well; that his incident was minor; and that there are no long-term effects. We wish our friend recovery and look forward to seeing him here in the Senate later this week.

H.R. 7691

Madam President, on the floor today, the Senate is going to hold an important vote to move forward desperately needed aid for the people of Ukraine as they continue fighting against Russian aggression. We have a moral obligation—a moral obligation—to pass this assistance as soon as we can in the Senate.

The vast majority of us in this Chamber is united in getting this aid done as quickly as possible, including myself and the Republican leader, but last Thursday, the junior Senator from Kentucky prevented the Senate from getting Ukraine funding out the door and onto the President's desk.

The arguments he made on the floor last week made clear that he outright opposes giving aid to the people of Ukraine as they fight Russian authoritarianism. Senator PAUL's obstruction of Ukraine funding is totally unacceptable and only serves to strengthen Putin's hand in the long run. I urge him to drop his opposition so we can reach an agreement to get this package passed through the Senate as soon as we can.

But, to be clear, his obstruction will not—will not—prevent Ukraine aid from ultimately passing the Senate. One way or another, we are going to get this done and send a clear message to Ukraine and to the world that America stands on the side of democracy and against Putin's deeply immoral campaign of violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me join the majority leader in best wishes to our colleague CHRIS VAN HOLLEN.

It came as a surprise this morning, but we are heartened by the news that he is recovering, and we hope he will be back with us very, very soon. He is a wonderful Senator, who is representing his State effectively, and he is very close to Members on both sides of the aisle. So we wish him and his family all the strength and recovery as quickly as he can.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

Madam President, this was another weekend of bloodshed and loss in America.

In Chicago, five people were shot dead, including a 16-year-old boy—killed near “The Bean,” which those of us in Chicago know automatically as that sight in Millennium Park where people race to gather and take photographs. It is one of the most popular attractions in our city, and just this last weekend, it was the scene of a murder, with one teenager killing another.

In California yesterday, a gunman walked into a church and opened fire, killing one person and critically wounding four others. That same afternoon, another gunman opened fire at a flea market in Houston, killing two and injuring three.

A weekend in America.

But both of these mass shootings happened less than 24 hours after a White supremacist massacred innocent shoppers at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY. The shooter was wearing tactical gear and carrying an AR-15 assault rifle—a weapon designed to kill people. He shot 13 people, 11 of whom were Black, in an act of racist violence; 10 of the victims died. Each of these 10 people had left home Saturday, maybe to grab dinner or to buy groceries for the week, and they never returned. Now their families are facing the unimaginable trauma of loss. In an instant, they lost a grandparent, a child, a spouse.

To those families, I say: You do not grieve alone. America grieves with you.

One of the victims was Aaron Salter. He was a retired police officer who was working as a security guard at the grocery store when it was attacked. Officer Aaron Salter was a hero. When the gunman entered the store, Officer Salter didn't flinch; he leapt into action to save the lives of the shoppers and employees, but there was only so much he could do. He was armed with a handgun while the person who attacked the store was wearing a tactical vest and firing an assault rifle. Like so many of our police who risk their lives for us every day, Officer Salter was outgunned.

As we mourn Officer Salter's loss this week, our Nation's Capital is welcoming law enforcement from across the country for Police Week.

To every officer who protects our communities like Officer Salter did so valiantly, we give our thanks.

No officers should ever find themselves in a situation where they are outgunned by an assailant, but that is exactly what happened in Buffalo this weekend, and it happens far too often in cities like Chicago.

For decades, this Senate has failed to pass legislation that would close the gaping holes in our gun laws and reduce the shootings that tear apart law enforcement families and families of all kinds across the country. How many more lives will be lost before we act?